

and ensure that a source of funding is available to assist the families living in the Bennett Freeze area.

The Bennett Freeze Rehabilitation Act of 2004 creates a program to provide reconstruction and rehabilitation money for the Bennett Freeze area. This includes housing construction and renovation, infrastructure improvements and economic development initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Bennett Freeze Rehabilitation Act of 2004. It is time that Congress corrects a true injustice to the Navajo people living in the Bennett Freeze area.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes Nos. 473, 474, and 475. Had I been present, I would have voted: "Aye" on rollcall No. 473, the motion instructs conferees on H.R. 4200 to adopt the bipartisan Senate-passed provisions on hate crimes, "aye" on rollcall No. 474, the motion to close portions of the Department of Defense Conference Report, and "aye" on rollcall No. 475 for S. 2363, to revise and extend the Boys and Girls Club of America.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. TODD TIAHRT

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, on September 28th, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote No. 473. Rollcall vote No. 473 was Representative PELOSI's Motion to Instruct Conferees on the DOD Authorization Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on the motion to instruct. I would ask that my statement appear in the appropriate location in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING G. PIERCE WOOD, JR.

### HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of G. Pierce Wood, Jr., who through his countless contributions to the Tampa Bay community has served as a role model for us all.

A fifth generation Floridian, Pierce never shied from service. After attending the U.S. Naval Academy, he served a tour of duty in the Korean War. Pierce went on to serve TECO Energy for 34 years, retiring as Senior Vice President in 1988 to form his own government relations consulting firm.

Pierce, however, will be best remembered for his many community activities and tireless support for a host of charitable causes. Throughout his lifetime of service, Pierce was

chairman of the Committee of 100 of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Board of Fellows of the University of Tampa. He was president and chairman of the MacDonald Training Center Foundation and president and campaign manager of the United Way of Greater Tampa.

Pierce served as director of the Tampa Museum of Art and the Tampa Philharmonic, first chairman of the capital cabinet of the new Lowry Park Zoo, president of the Gold Triangle and a member of the event advisory committee of the Tampa Sports Authority and many other civic and charitable organizations. All the while, he was active in the Rotary Club of Tampa, the Sertoma Club and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Those who knew Pierce well remember him as "a true Southern gentleman" and "a giant among men." On behalf of the Tampa Bay community, I would like to honor G. Pierce Wood, Jr. for his dedication to serving others and extend my deepest sympathies to his many loved ones.

#### REVISING AND EXTENDING BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF AMERICA

SPEECH OF

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 28, 2004*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2363, legislation to further the support of the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. As a former participant of the Boys and Girls Clubs, I know first hand how successful it is in giving young people a sense of usefulness, belonging, and influence. Today, my two little boys, Johnny and Matthew, participate in this organization's flag football, baseball, and basketball leagues. I have seen that it provides young people with a safe place to learn, establish strong relationships, and build good character.

The Boys and Girls Clubs of America has been ranked number one among youth organizations for the tenth straight year, and has been listed as 15th among all nonprofit organizations. It is the nation's fastest-growing youth development organization with a primary focus on young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It serves more than 4 million boys and girls through 3,400 club locations, which are located in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and both domestic and international military bases. Sixty-five percent of the children that participate in the Boys and Girls Clubs are from minority backgrounds. The wide reach of this organization helps all types of children develop creativity through the arts, a healthy lifestyle through fitness activities, and a career through educational, character, and leadership programs.

Having served on the Board of Directors for the La Crosse Boys and Girls Clubs, I know the amount of time and hard work that goes into operating this organization. I would like to thank Terry Erickson, the current director of the La Crosse Boys and Girls Clubs, who has served since I was a participant. Terry has taken the La Crosse Club to heights never before imaginable. He has become synonymous with the Club and a role model to everyone involved.

I would also like to thank Natalie Carlise for providing the enthusiasm at the relatively new Boys and Girls Clubs of Sparta. Terry, Natalie, and their staff provide a safe and nurturing atmosphere for the children of western Wisconsin. Their commitment to the Boys and Girls Clubs is greatly appreciated by volunteers, parents, and especially the children at the Clubs. I cannot thank them enough for their selfless giving of time, and love for our children.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation on the floor today, to extend the authorization of this important program for our children who represent the future of our country.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 29, 2004*

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to participate in the following votes due to a personal matter. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

September 23, 2004: Rollcall vote 469, on H. Res. 785, on ordering the Previous Questions, I would have voted "yes." Rollcall vote 470, on H. Res. 794, on ordering the Previous Question, I would have voted "yes." Rollcall vote 471, on H. Res. 794, on Agreeing to the Resolution, I would have voted "yes." Rollcall vote 472, on agreeing to the conference report for the Relief for Working Families Tax Act of 2003, I would have voted "yes."

#### PIRACY DETERRENCE AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

### HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, September 28, 2004*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support legislation I introduced to designate the oak as America's national tree.

During a four-month-long online election, with almost a half million votes logged, the American people chose the oak tree as America's national tree. To make official what the American people have already chosen, I introduced H.R. 1775 last April, which will officially designate the oak as America's national tree.

As a member of Congress representing a heavily forested district in Virginia, I know first-hand how trees add to our quality of life. As Chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, I appreciate how trees and forests enhance the environment, add recreational opportunities and provide for the livelihoods of millions of individuals in the forest industry. Whether enjoying a product generated from a forest, or the simple satisfaction of lying under a shaded giant, trees contribute to all Americans.

The strong and stately oak tree is of particular importance in America's history and culture. Not only is this majestic tree an aesthetic beauty that characterizes the landscape of much of our great Nation, it also provides us with wood products in our homes, our offices